

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 CIAE-00 EA-07 EUR-12

PM-04 H-01 INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NASA-01 NEA-10

NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01 OES-06

SS-15 USIA-06 /121 W

-----211903Z 027373 /41

R 211704Z MAR 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6090

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NY

USMISSION NATO

ERDA HQ WASHDC

ERDA GERNAMTOWN

SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 GENEVA 2129

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, CCD, HU

SUBJECT: CCD: CCD DISCUSSIONS OF SOVIET MDW PROPOSAL - HUNGARIAN

REFERENCE TO ABM TREATY

1. AS REPORTED IN APRA 3 OF GENEVA 2027, HUNGARIAN EXPERT ON MARCH 17, MADE STATEMENT ABOUT CLASS OF "AEROSPACE VEHICLES", WHICH SPACE SHUTTLE IS A MEMBER. IN THIS STATEMENT HE TALKED ABOUT AERODYNAMIC FLIGHT REGIME OF SUCH VEHICLES AS POTENTIAL SYSTEMS FOR DELIVERY OF WEAPONS

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AGAINST SURFACE TARGETS. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE COMMENTED ON PROBLEM OF DEFENSE AGAINST SUCH VEHICLES AND INCLUDED AMBIGUOUS REFERENCE TO ABM TREATY (WHICH MAY BE EMPTY, OR OPAQUE, OR A SPECULATIVE TOSS TO SEE IF IT ELICITS A RESPONSE).

2. SCC INTERPRETERS HAVE PREPARED A TRANSLATION OF

RELEVANT PORTION OF HUNGARIAN PAPER, WHICH WAS DELIVERED
IN RUSSIAN. TEXT OF TRANSLATION IS AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT

FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THEIR MILITARY APPLICATION, THE
MOST IMPORTANT PROPERTY OF THESE NEW AEROSPACE VEHICLES IN
OUR VIEW IS THE FACT THAT THEY CAN READILY FLY ABOVE THE ATMOS-
PHERE, THAT IS, AT AN ALTITUDE OF FROM 30-40 KILOMETERS UP
TO AN ORBITAL ALTITUDE OF ABOUT 160 KILOMETERS. MOREOVER,
DUE TO WELL-KNOWN LAWS OF AEROBALLISTICS, FLIGHTS OF A MANEUVERABLE
AEROSPACE VEHICLE CAN CHANGE ALTITUDE, DIRECTION AND FLIGHT
VELOCITY AS REQUIRED.

THE MANEUVERING CAPABILITIES OF AEROSPACE VEHICLES ARE
VERY SUBSTANTIAL BECAUSE TO DATE THE RANGE OF ALTITUDES
BETWEEN 40 AND 160 KILOMETERS IS NOT COVERED EITHER BY AIR-
CRAFT OR, STRICTLY SPEAKING, BY ROCKET OR SPACE TECHNOLOGY.

AS YOU KNOW, FUTURE AIRCRAFT WILL BE ABLE TO FLY IN
THE STRATOSPHERE WITH A MAXIMUM VELOCITY OF 900 TO 1,000 METERS
PER SECOND (MACH 3) WHEREAS SPACECRAFT AND MISSILES ONLY PASS
THROUGH THIS RANGE OF ALTITUDES WHEN BEING PLACED INTO ORBIT
OR WHEN THE MISSILES ARE BEING TARGETED.

OBVIOUSLY, UTILIZATION OF THE NEW REUSABLE AEROSPACE
VEHICLES IN SPACE EXPLORATION OPENS UP MANY NEW OPPORTUNITIES.
AT THIS TIME IT IS EVEN DIFFICULT TO OVERESTIMATE THE SIGNIFI-
CANCE OF THESE NEW SYSTEMS FOR PEACEFUL APPLICATION. THE
MOST IMPORTANT FACT IS THAT THEIR USE WILL MAKE SPACE EXPLORA-
TION LESS COSTLY.

HOWEVER, IT SHOULD NOT BE FORGOTTEN THAT, IN PRINCIPLE,
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THESE NEW AEROSPACE VEHICLES CAN ALSO BE DEVELOPED FOR CARRY-
ING OUT MILITARY MISSIONS IN TRANSPORTING WARHEADS OF ONE
KIND OR OTHER FOR WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 GENEVA 2129

THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUCH AEROSPACE VEHICLES FOR WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION IS FRAUGHT WITH GREAT DANGER. (TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: INTERPOLATED FROM GARBLED RUSSIAN.) AS STATES EARLIER, THESE AEROSPACE VEHICLES WILL BE ABLE TO MANEUVER IN FLIGHT AT ALTITUDES BETWEEN 40 AND 160 KILOMETERS AT A VELOCITY OF 1,500 TO 6,000 METERS PER SECOND, DEPENDING UPON FLIGHT ALTITUDE.

I WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE THAT IN OUR VIEW THIS RANGE OF ALTITUDES IS NOT COVERED BY THE RELEVANT CONVENTION ON OUTER SPACE, SIGNED ABOUT TEN YEARS AGO, WHICH BANS THE PLACEMENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN OUTER SPACE. THUS, FROM THE STANDPOINT OF CONFIDENTIAL

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INTERNATIONAL LAW, THOSE AEROSPACE VEHICLES WHICH DO NOT ACHIEVE AN ALTITUDE OF APPROXIMATELY 160 KILOMETERS (ABOUT 100 MILES) AND WHICH DO NOT ACHIEVE ORBITAL VELOCITY MAY BE USED FOR TRANSPORTING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION.

THEREFORE, THE DANGER INVOLVED IN THE APPEARANCE OF MILITARY AEROSPACE VEHICLES OF MASS DESTRUCTION IS SELF-EVIDENT. IN OUR VIEW, TO DATE THERE ARE NO CORRESPONDING DEFENSIVE SYSTEMS AGAINST SUCH OFFENSIVE AEROSPACE SYSTEMS. MISSILE COMPLEXES AND AIR DEFENSE FIGHTER AIRCRAFT COULD NOT BE USED DUE TO THEIR LIMITED OPERATING ALTITUDE. ABM SYSTEMS ARE, OF COURSE, LIMITED BY THE 1972 SOVIET-US TREATY. WE BELIEVE, THEREFORE, THAT THE APPEARANCE OF AEROSPACE WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION WOULD INEVITABLY NECESSITATE A SEARCH FOR DEFENSE ALTERNATIVES AGAINST SUCH VEHICLES. THUS, IF AEROSPACE WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION ARE NOT BANNED, THE ARMS RACE WILL CONTINUE.

CLEARLY, THEREFORE, THE ROSTER OF NEW TYPES OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION MUST ALSO INCLUDE AEROSPACE WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION.

I WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE THAT SUCH A BAN WULD IN NO WAY HAMPER PEACEFUL DEVELOPMENT OF NON-MILITARY AEROSPACE VEHICLES. BANNING AEROSPACE WEAPONS SYSTEMS OF MASS DESTRUCTION WILL NOT RESTRICT SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL PROGRESS OR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPACE EXPLORATION; IT WILL ONLY PROTECT MANKIND FROM THE APPEARANCE OF ANOTHER NEW AND VERY DANGEROUS TYPE OF WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION.
END TEXT

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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